

LOCAL I-S NEWS

for department store workers

Vol. 4, No. 10

264

JANUARY 1, 1953

Press Spotlights CIO Voting, But Ignores Rest of Convention

While a majority of the nation's newspapers focussed their spotlight on the election of a president to succeed the late Philip Murray, all or most of them gave little or no coverage to much of the other important business which transpired when delegates gathered in Atlantic City for the 14th Constitutional Convention of CIO.

For three full days prior to the election of officers the delegates had discussed and adopted resolutions concerning almost every aspect of the union, and had listened intently to speeches by such notable public leaders as Governor Adlai Stevenson and Senator Wayne Morse.

The election of Walter Reuther, head of the million-member United Auto Workers, as national President of CIO by a vote of 3,079,181 to CIO Executive Vice President Raymond's 2,613,203 did not reflect the split that large sections of the big-business press had gleefully anticipated.

In his acceptance speech to the closing session of the convention, Reuther said, "Our enemies have been watching the proceedings of this convention sitting in the cocktail bars of the Union League Club and the millionaires' clubs all over America. Reading the stories in the press of the division in CIO has filled their hearts with hope, filled their minds with designs that if we are divided they can take us on and drive us back and rob us of our hard won social and economic gains. I say this to

(Continued on page 2)

January 15th Set For Local's March of Dimes

President Sam Kovenetsky has named January 15th "Local I-S March of Dimes Day" and urges that every Union member "join the campaign for a more secure future by giving generously."

He said, "There isn't a parent alive who doesn't dread the very word 'Polio,' for fear of what it might do to his family. There is not an adult who can be sure that he or she will not be a victim. It is urgent, therefore, that we give as much as we can to the March of Dimes—the organization that is financing most of the research for means of preventing this horrible disease and which pays the bills and provides the care for its victims."

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Walter Reuther

A spectacular start in United Auto Workers Local 174 in 1936 led to Walter Reuther's election to the UAW executive board that same year. In 1942 he was elected vice president and was chosen head of his union in 1946. A few months later he was elected a CIO vice president.

A veteran of industrial unionism, Reuther was active in the Detroit and Flint sitdown strikes and in the brutal "Battle of the Overpass" which finally brought the giant Ford Company to recognize the union of its workers.

All Members To Vote In 1-S Election Of Officers Jan. 22-23

With January 22 and 23 set as the days on which members of Local 1-S will cast their ballots for the officers who will lead the fight against Macy's for higher pay and security over the next two years, thousands of men and women who have a vital stake in the outcome of the election are taking an active hand to help guarantee that every eligible member exercises his right to vote.

A preliminary report released by the Election and Objections Committee, which is the group responsible for the conduct of the election, shows that more than two thousand men and women had signed nominating petitions in order to assure the candidate of their choice a place on the ballot.

Signatures Verified

Following the December 14 deadline for filing petitions, the Elections Committee, headed by Chairman George Schick, had the job of checking each individual signature against the Union's records to determine the standing of all those who signed and to guard against duplication of signatures of two candidates for the same office.

The Committee will submit its report to the membership at the January 6 meeting, by which time each person designated on the petitions will have been called upon to either accept or decline the nomination. The names of those candidates who are certified by the Committee and who accept nomination will then appear on the voting machines at the Union office and on the printed ballots to be used at the branch stores.

Posts To Be Filled

All of the Union's executive positions must be filled in the coming elections. They are: President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, three Trustees, three Welfare Board members-at-large and two Sergeants-at-Arms.

While it is the expressed hope of the Union's officers that all eligible members will be sure to vote because they recognize the importance of making the demo-

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Defense \$\$ Pour In To War Chest

As the deadline for the first month's collection of the Defense Fund assessment rolled around a total of more than \$11,000 had already poured in to the special account opened solely for that purpose.

So excellent was the response to the drive that President Sam Kovenetsky sent a congratulatory letter to the entire Shop Steward body praising them for their understanding, their spirit and their determination to guarantee the success of the campaign.

Early in the drive both Flatbush and Jamaica reported that they were at the 98% mark and rounding up a few stragglers. In Herald Square, many departments made the collection even before receipt books had been issued, and turned in a 100% record.

With each member of Local 1-S paying into the Defense Fund a sum equal to what he pays in dues, it is estimated that a fairly substantial total will be on hand by the time the contract expires in February. The resolution adopted by the membership calls for the payments to continue until a contract is signed. This was regarded as an important means of showing a steadily growing strength to Macy's as the negotiations progress, which, it is hoped, will help con-

(Continued on page 2)

Back Pay Comes For Holiday



Floor workers from many departments gleefully inspect their pay envelopes which contain both a bonus and retroactive pay for everyone hired on or before last April 2. See story on Page 4.

Official Notice

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6th, 7 P.M.

MANHATTAN CENTER

34th Street & 8th Avenue

\$2 Assessment to the Welfare Fund for unexcused absence

Admission by 1952 or '53 Union Card only

...And To You And Yours—A Very Happy New Year!

JAN

1953

XUM

Macy's: Merchants of Misery — Part III

By DICK PASTOR

WHAT WENT BEFORE . . .

In the two previous installments we established the fact that Macy's deliberately makes it as tough as possible for legitimate claimants to secure their rights under the Workmen's Compensation Law. We proved that Macy's will fight a worker's claim even though such a fight will, in the end, cost the company large sums of money.

We showed how the insurance companies and their big-business clients lobbied for, and won, changes in the law which now guarantees them their money before a compensation lawyer can receive a fee. And we showed how, from this, many workers have had a hard time finding a lawyer to take their case.

From this we concluded that the total effect of Macy's policy plus management-sponsored changes in the law was to discourage people

from filing claims—and that fewer claims helped take the company off the spot by leaving fewer occasions on which they had to show their open contempt and callous disregard for the people they hire!

Protect Your Rights

"My plea," said I-S Compensation Attorney Joseph DeFede, "is that any injury, no matter how trivial it may seem, should be reported as soon as it happens. When a worker goes to the doctor he should always be sure to mention any accident that may have preceded his ailment, even if it seems completely unrelated. Failure to give the doctor all the details only complicates the lawyer's job of establishing medical proof of a relationship between the accident and the ailment. If accidents are not reported, we start with two strikes against us."

The case of Mrs. "W" is a good example of the lawyer's point.

Mrs. "W" had nine years of Macy service when in February of 1950 she bent to pick up some heavy merchandise. As a result of her strenuous effort she suffered a back and groin injury which she never reported. She was treated by her own doctors, paid her own medical bills and lost a week from work.

But in February of 1952 Mrs. "W" had to stop work. She came to the Union's lawyer, only to learn that her claim was outlawed because more than two years had elapsed since the date of the original accident.

Investigation revealed, however, that just prior to her being forced to stop work in 1952 Mrs. "W" had had a new accident which had aggravated her earlier injury. On this basis alone it was possible to file the claim which is now pending and through which every effort will be made to re-secure some of the rights Mrs. "W" had previously sacrificed.

Fear of Filing

Many workers, particularly those already at or beyond middle age, are afraid to file legitimate claims for fear of antagonizing their employer, with possible loss of their job resulting. Many of these feel it is better to suffer in silence, pay the bills and keep on the boss' "good side" than to exercise their legal rights. This may

be tragically true of those workers who do not have the benefit of protection under a Union contract—but it could not be farther from the truth for members of Local 1-S!

Our contract with Macy's is the best guarantee of full protection for all of everybody's rights. Because you cannot be discriminated against and because you cannot be transferred or laid-off out of seniority you are free to exercise your rights and protect them.

Don't Hesitate

There is no need to hesitate or delay, as Mrs. "R" did, when it comes to filing a compensation claim.

Mrs. "R" had been selling in Macy's for eleven years when, in November of 1950, her foot was stepped on by a customer. That seemingly minor incident led to Hematoma, or blood tumor. Only when the foot became swollen and painful did she go to the Macy doctor who treated her for athlete's foot!

Her foot continued to become worse, a lump began to form at her small toe — and only then, more than seven months after the accident did she file a claim for compensation!

Who Is Responsible?

Responsibility for these dangerous and unnecessary delays can be

traced to Macy's policy of making it as difficult and as complicated as possible for the workers to file a claim and present their evidence in support of such a claim. But the individual must also be charged with some of the blame. Said Local 1-S President Sam Kovenetsky, "If an injured worker would stop for just one moment and realize that he has the full support of the Union behind him he would not hesitate for one second, because he would know that he has nothing to fear from the company—regardless of what their policy is. *More people should stop and think of the difference between what Macy's would like to do and what they can do!* Macy's has been able to get away with a lot because the people have not fought for their rights—and they haven't fought because they didn't stop long enough to realize that they don't have to fight alone.

"I hope that every member will take Mr. DeFede's words to heart and report every accident, no matter how minor, when it happens. I also hope that more and more people will call on their Union for help when it comes to protecting their rights under the Compensation Law or any other law.

"Only then will Macy's policy become unimportant compared with the people's ability to defend all their rights!"

Blood Bank Fills Vital Health Need

Many stories have been written of spectacular efforts to rush blood for transfusion to seriously ill, wounded or injured victims. What almost every such story fails to mention is the staggering bill that usually awaits the civilian who must call on a blood bank in time of crisis.

But we could tell hundreds of stories—stories of members of Local 1-S, of their husbands or wives or children who were stricken and needed blood in their fight to stay alive. Blood to strengthen them before an operation—Blood to help them recover from an operation—Healthy blood to replace unhealthy—Blood to replace blood lost in accidents. Blood by the pint, by the quart and by the gallon—and thanks to the teamwork of a thousand donors, none of it costs a penny!

Most cases aren't "exciting" in any adventuresome sense of the word. Usually it is just a telephone call from the 1-S member, or a member of his family, asking that one, two or more pints of blood be released and giving the patient's name and the name of the hospital.

But the cases of Laura Wilken-son (2nd Floor Packer-Cashier) and her cousin, Dorothy Taylor (6th Floor Packer-Cashier) were different. The Union's part in the fight to keep both of them alive began when Vice President Elizabeth Hammond received a call from the Middlesex Hospital in Brunswick, New Jersey. The caller identified himself, told Miss Hammond that he had called because hospital authorities had found their Union cards and Local 1-S Health Plan identification cards. He reported that they had both been critically injured in an auto accident on the New Jersey Turnpike and both of them needed blood—FAST!

While Miss Hammond was on the telephone obtaining the release of blood from the Red Cross bank, Administrator Mabel Murther was getting ready for a trip. When she arrived at Red Cross the bottles of blood were waiting and were packed on ice in special containers.

With that precious package in her hands, Mabel sped to Penn Station and boarded a train for New Brunswick. Within two hours of the time that the call had been received she was handing the bottled blood over to the waiting doctors.

Today, thanks to the Local 1-S Health Plan which paid a substantial part of their doctor and hospital bills, and the Local 1-S Blood Bank which provided the aid they needed at no cost, both Laura and Dorothy are well on the road to full recovery.

There's a simple reason for telling this story, and a simple moral to be drawn. The reason: Sometime in late February there will be another Blood Bank drive, so that all through 1953 those in need can confidently turn to their Union for help.

The Moral: 8,000 men and women built Local 1-S and by working together have won raises and security. The same 8,000 men and women, by pooling their strength and know-how, won a Health Plan, have organized a Medical plan and have, by working together accomplished things that no single person could even hope to do.

The continued operation of the Blood Bank will be up to you. You can guarantee yourself and your family the best, all-round insurance by giving a pint of blood. Be sure to sign the Blood Bank Pledge sheet when it comes through your department—for the sake of those you love the most!

Members Assured More Welfare Aid After N. Y. Fund Meetings



Local 1-S Welfare Board representative Jack Fox (arrow) and leaders of other unions meet with New York Fund officials to discuss welfare services available to members in need of medical and other aid.

Local 1-S Welfare Board member Jack Fox and representatives of fifteen other unions attended the first meeting of a counselling committee of CIO locals in the board room of the Greater New York Fund. They devoted a two hour session to study of 423 hospital, health and welfare facilities available to organized labor through the Fund, as well as those available through public welfare.

Similar sessions of the group were scheduled for four additional Mondays.

Jack Fox and others attending the sessions are expected to aid in forming committees on community service for the purpose of interpreting welfare and health needs and the support of the Fund to the members of Local 1-S and in

the respective unions of the others present.

Brother Fox is probably best known to members of Local 1-S for the very active role he played in helping to organize the Union's medical plan. His tireless efforts were largely instrumental in bringing to the Union's members the benefits of the Associated Physician's Medical Group.

The meetings of union representatives and leaders of the Greater New York Fund were aimed at familiarizing the labor groups with the many services which may be utilized by their members. The idea for the gatherings came into being because it was learned that while many Union members contributed to the Fund, very few of them knew what services were offered or how to go

about enlisting the aid of any of the Fund's participating agencies.

As a result of Jack Fox's presence at the meetings of the group it is expected that the Local 1-S Welfare Board will be much better equipped to help in the handling of most types of health and welfare problems.

WELFARE BOARD

Meets
Second Tuesday
of
Every Month
7 P.M.
at the
UNION OFFICE

LOCAL 1-S NEWS

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Santa Claus (With Union Label) Distributes Retroactive Pay

Santa Claus, wearing a Union label, spent December 10, 11 and 12 making the rounds of Herald Square and the Branch Stores. In his bag he had goodly sized packages of back pay for all members of Local 1-S who were in the store 30 days or more as of last May 2nd.

How Santa got there is quite a tale. First of all, he didn't want to make the trip. He said that, according to Macy's the people working in the store were making enough to think that every day was

a holiday. After a lot of arguing, starting last February 1st, he finally gave in and arrived disguised as an arbitrator. But Macy's made things so hot for him that he packed his bags and left.

After that it took more arguing and thousands of people who were fighting mad because Macy's had sent him packing, to bring him back. Legend has it that Santa is a pretty independent fellow, but everyone knows that this time he had no choice. His pre-Christmas appearance at Macy's was a com-

mand performance, with Local 1-S doing the ordering! And while everybody knows that he and his helpers are usually very jolly fellows, it must be faithfully recorded that this year his helpful bag-fillers were all gloomy Macy executives who got no joy out of stuffing the extra dollars into those little bags called pay envelopes. The only comfort they got was the thought that much of it would come right back to them by way of holiday gift shopping.

Accuracy also demands that we

LOCAL 1-S DELEGATES TO "LABOR ISRAEL" CONFERENCE HAIL GAINS

By ROBERT ASHBY

By invitation from the Organizing Committee of Labor Israel (Histadrut) Local 1-S Executive Board member Anne Berman and Shop Stewards Cecelia Curry (Flying Squad), Anne Canatori (232) and Robert Ashby (11) attended the 29th Annual Convention held at the Hotel Commodore. Their report follows:

Some three thousand trade union delegates from throughout the

report that members of Local 1-S were quick to recognize the real Santa, because hundreds of them called WA 4-4540 or visited 290 Seventh Avenue to see President Sam Kovenetsky and say, "Thanks for what you did to help make this a very pleasant holiday."

United States and Canada assembled on the occasion of the 29th Annual Convention of the National Committee for Labor Israel and its report to the American Trade Union Council. It was a report based on the achievements of Labor Israel, and one of which they may feel deservedly proud.

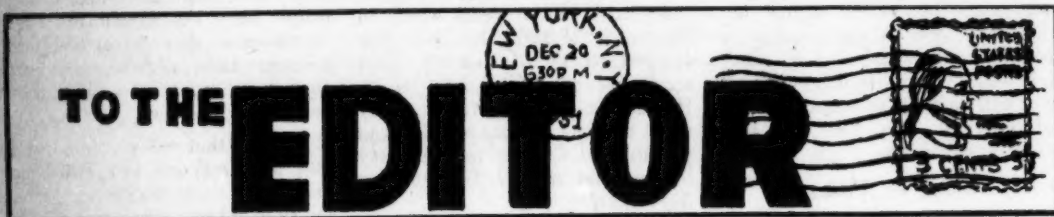
Highlighted in the addresses by the numerous notable guests were the many and sincere tributes to the memory of labor's two late and great leaders, Philip Murray of the CIO and William Green, AFL.

Divided only by the simple matter of union affiliations, both good men had devoted their lives to advancing the status, the security and the living standards of the millions whose very livelihood depends on their physical labor.

Solemn respects were paid to the memory of the late Dr. Chaim Weizman, first President of the new, but "up and coming" State of Israel, whose powerful character and tenacity of purpose finally helped establish a national homeland for the Jewish people.

On display, and for sale, as concrete evidence of the craftsmanship and skill of Israel's workers were items many and varied. From silk-soft knitted woolens in attractive designs to shiny plaques in hammered copper; from unusually attractive costume jewelry to rugged, but good looking footwear, Labor Israel bids well for a high spot in world trade.

The Conference concluded with a solemn hymn in an atmosphere of friendly cordiality, which well betokens the solidarity and strength of workers united.



MANY THANKS

Many thanks to Administrator Mabel Murther, my Shop Steward, and everyone concerned in helping me to win my case.

After working eight years in Department 137 (Nursery Furniture) I was reduced on a budget cut. Following this, I worked in three different departments. Six weeks ago I was called for a better job, got my interview and would have gotten the job—but discovered that my last review from Department 137 was so bad that it was impossible for me to get it. This last review was on my record without my knowledge and had never been made known to me. As it stood, it appeared that I was on my way out of the store entirely—and all because of this one bad review made by my buyer at that time. She and I had a disagreement and it appeared that she had used it against me on my review.

Other employees of the department, as well as I, felt that it was unfair and unjust. I immediately went to Mrs. Murther, presented my case and, after a lot of work and persistence, I was finally called to the better job.

Mrs. Jennie Lewis

WONDERFUL FEELING

Please accept my sincerest thanks for your kindness during my recent illness.

What a wonderful feeling to have the benefit of the advantages provided by our Union when things get rough. It was all handled so promptly, too.

The get-well card and gift was deeply appreciated and were great morale boosters.

Gratefully,
Anna Finn, F6

WELL INFORMED

I want to take this occasion to thank you for your lovely cards and gifts which have cheered me up during the past months. Also for our wonderful paper which has kept me so well informed. And, to the Health Plan which has lessened my financial burdens. For all this I can only say thanks and thanks again and again.

To my co-workers who have also sent beautiful cards and gifts and kept me posted with everything, I wish to express my deepest appreciation.

With best wishes to Local 1-S and all it stands for, I am,

Sincerely yours,
Gertrude Wernick, 88 Dept.

AMAZED AND DISGUSTED

I was amazed and disgusted to read the item in your issue of December 15th, under the heading of "Board Reviews Work—sub-heading "Discipline." Somebody has somehow given you the wrong information.

In the first place the charges against Frances Hagemeyer of the "circulation of malicious rumors" etc. were not proven. Secondly, charges were never brought by other departments in which Miss Hagemeyer had worked. Finally, to the best of my knowledge (second hand) she has never received any notification of suspension.

In absolute contradiction to the charges by other departments, I know that many members of other departments where she had worked, together with several members from her own department, including myself, signed a statement that we had always been able to work well with her. (In fact, many of these signatories had given up their own time to travel downtown to the meeting at which Miss Hagemeyer had to appear to testify in her behalf.

Furthermore, when the petitioners were asked if they had seen Miss Hagemeyer carrying tales to company executives, the answer was always, "I heard."

If any maliciousness was shown at all, it was by the petitioners who formed a "caucus" for reasons best known to themselves. Maybe these same people would be better advised to think over the quotation from Robert Burns poem. "I wish to God, the giftie' gie' us. To see ourselves as others see us."

Perhaps these petitioners feel satisfied that their cruel behavior has resulted in Miss Hagemeyer's ill health—she is at present very sick in a hospital through the effects of the ordeal she has suffered.

Let justice be done and the true facts be made known and a retraction of misstatements be made.

Very truly yours,
Henry Baron, P12

EDITOR'S NOTE

On Tuesday evening, November 25 the Local 1-S Executive Board heard a report from the Union's Discipline Committee on charges brought against Miss Hagemeyer by a group of her co-workers in Parkchester.

The charges were that she had circulated "malicious rumors and accusations against co-workers" and had carried such tales to management.

The Committee's report stated that in addition to the formal charges brought against her by the majority of the Union members in her present department, statements in support of the charges had been made by members who had previously worked with her in other departments. Those supporting statements were not formally entered into the Committee's minutes of its hearings.

Basing its decision on a review of the charges and the evidence in support of the charges, the Executive Board voted to suspend Miss Hagemeyer from the Union for a period of three months, and formally notified her of its decision by registered mail.

The Local 1-S Constitution and By-Laws provides all the necessary safeguards for the rights of individuals, by setting forth the means of appealing decisions of any Union committee to the membership as a whole.

WONDERFUL HELP

Just a few words to again thank President Sam Kovenetsky for his wonderful help to me and to my daughter in getting me in St. Barnabac and the help from the National Cancer Fund. I can't write how I feel about this nor could I tell you—it's just too big to explain how I feel—but believe me, it's a great comfort to know that one's Union is working with a personal interest when you can't work for yourself.

Many, and sincere thanks again.
Audrey C. Sheridan, 913 Dept.

PROMPT AND EFFICIENT

This is to acknowledge receipt of "Health Plan" check, for which I thank you.

I wish to take this opportunity to express appreciation for the prompt and efficient manner in which my claim was handled.

Continued success to Local 1-S and the Health Plan.

Sincerely,
Dorothy Desmond, 41 Dept.

A BLOOD DONOR

I wish to thank the Union for the kindness shown me when I asked for help in obtaining a blood donor for my father-in-law.

We particularly want to thank Jim Holeringer and Jerry Navratil—Jim for his untiring efforts in our behalf and Jerry for his donation of blood.

Thanking you all again, I am,
Sincerely,
Mary D. Ireland, W13

MARCH OF DIMES...

(Continued from Page 1)

times regardless of age, race, creed or national origin. And which has given unlimited aid to members of our Union who were stricken."

Financial assistance provided by the March of Dimes is in no sense "charity." It is help freely made available by the American people through their own contributions which are given voluntarily to assure every polio victim maximum opportunity for recovery.

All Shop Stewards will receive official March of Dimes Scrolls from the Union office and are urged to circulate them throughout their departments on January 15th. A leaflet distribution will precede the collection so that all members will know that it's coming and will be prepared to participate.

PERSONALS

FOR SALE—New Living Room set, Bendix automatic washer, Coldspot refrigerator, Howell dinette set, Zenith radio-phonograph, Magee wool twist rugs, wardrobe, stove, steel base cabinet, Boltflex rocker. All in excellent condition. Best offer accepted. Call RA 8-0572 after 7 P.M.

WANTED—5 or 6 rooms for three adults any location. Rent to \$60. Phone GE 8-0307 after 7:30 P.M.

WANTED—3½ or 4 rooms Queens, Bronx or Manhattan. Reasonable rent. Need is urgent! Phone EX-2-1956.

Personal ads for the Local 1-S NEWS must be received at the Union office by the 1st or 15th day of each month. Ads received on the 1st will appear in the issue dated the 15th. Those received on the 15th will appear in the issue dated the 1st of the following month. This is offered as a service to members of Local 1-S and there is no charge for personal ads.

MEDICAL PLAN—For the name and address of the doctor, dentist or podiatrist nearest you CALL the Union Office —WA 4-4540 or Associated Physicians Medical Group—BU 8-4210 (Night or Day). Complete schedule of fees available upon request.
BLOOD BANK—If you need blood from the Blood Bank CALL Elizabeth Hammond at the Union Office—WA 4-4540.

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